

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the application. Claim 3 was previously canceled.

Claim 1 is amended to replace “at least one of these two kinds of synthetic resin” with “the polybutylene-system or polyethylene-system synthetic resin”. Support can be found, for example, at page 9, lines 18-23 and page 12, line 21 to page 13, line 4 of the specification as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Entry of the Amendment along with reconsideration and review of the claims on the merits are respectfully requested.

Formal Matter

Applicants note that the Examiner initialed and returned the form PTO-1449 filed on October 28, 2003. However, rather than initialing the cited reference, the Examiner has initialed a line in which no reference is identified.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner re-initial the Form PTO/SB/08 A & B for the record so as to make it clear that the cited reference was considered.

Response to Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over JP 7-18068 to Lun¹, in view of EP 0 420 564 to Endo et al and U.S. Patent No. 6,025,286 to Kawatsu, for the reasons given in the Office Action.

¹ Applicants note that JP UM-B-7-18068 is incorrectly referred to as Lun in the Office Action, but should be properly be referred to as Ooki or Ohki.

Applicants previously argued that in the present invention, the use of titanium oxide enhances the wear prevention of the component in which it is used. In Kawatsu, a number of materials are identified to aid in the sliding friction aspects of a polyester film. Specifically, Kawatsu discloses that clay, mica, titanium oxide, calcium carbonate, kaolin, talc or wet or dry silica, or organic particles of acrylic acid or styrene can be used to reduce sliding friction. However, there is no teaching in either Kawatsu or Endo regarding the wear of components or the generation of resin powder when a component is rotated at high speeds.

In the present invention, titanium oxide is used to improve wear resistance of the components. Thus, a tape cassette is provided which can prevent undesirable wear of a reel, even when the reel is rotated at high speeds. Additionally, because of the wear resistance of the present invention, the claimed configuration aids in preventing the generation of sliding resin powder and vibrations of the reel, which are caused by the wear of the reel. *See* Specification, page 4, lines 2 to 6.

Because neither of the Endo or the Kawatsu references teach this aspect of the claimed invention, Applicant submits that a skilled artisan would not have found it obvious to combine the references as alleged to achieve the claimed invention.

The Examiner's position in response to Applicants' arguments is that "the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the features recited above) are not recited in the rejected claim(s)." (see page 3, last paragraph of the Office Action). However, Applicants' arguments are directed to intended results of benefits, and thus are not proper claim limitations, and typically, it is improper to claim an intended use or a benefit of an invention in the claims, as the claims should

only set forth the structural differences. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims based on the previously submitted arguments.

Furthermore, in the present amendment, Applicants amend Claim 1 to replace “at least one of these two kinds of synthetic resin” with “the polybutylene-system or polyethylene-system synthetic resin”.

One skilled in the art would not achieve the claimed invention from the combination of Lun, Endo and Kawatsu, since Applicants submit that Endo (EP '564) does not utilize inorganic fillers with either a polybutylene-system or polyethylene-system synthetic resin as presently claimed, and since the references to Lun and Kawatsu fail to make up for Endo’s deficiency.

Thus, the combination of Lun, Endo and Kawatsu fails to render obvious the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

Conclusion

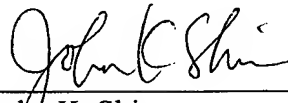
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/693,894

Atty. Docket No. Q78042

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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